

Graffiti Removal Program

Prevention

Graffiti cannot always be prevented, but property owners and residents can reduce the incidence of graffiti on building exteriors and walls by having good lighting and uncomfortable vegetation in place.

Work with your neighbors, your neighborhood association or home owners' association to be the eyes and ears for your community.

Enforcement

Putting graffiti on public or private property is against the law. If you see someone in the act of "tagging," call 911. If the graffiti is already in place, call (260) 659-7215 or 659-7230 to report it. Graffiti left in place tends to attract more graffiti.

Removal

If you are a property owner or resident, you can try washing off graffiti or painting it over yourself. If you don't have access to paint, or the surface is a block or brick wall and you need assistance, call (260) 659-7215 or 659-7230 to report it.

Graffiti FAQ's

Answers to the Frequently Asked Questions about the Graffiti Removal Program.

Q: What methods of reporting graffiti can I use?

A: You can Central Dispatch at 467-4195 24 hours a day, or Code enforcement at (260) 659-7215 or 659-7230 during business hours if it is not occurring at the time.

Q: What types of things/objects will the City remove graffiti from?

A: Department of Public Services will remove graffiti from residential, commercial and public properties such as homes, businesses, utility boxes, power poles, trash cans, etc.

Q: If the utility box belongs to the electric, gas or cable company, will the City still remove the graffiti or do I need to contact someone else?

A: It does not matter to whom the box belongs, if it has graffiti, the City will remove it.

Q: Does the City require permission to remove graffiti from private property?

A: The City attorney has determined that if the graffiti is in the public eye, we do not need permission for removal.

Q: Is there anything I can purchase to remove graffiti from my own property?

A: Home improvement and hardware stores carry several different graffiti removal products.

Q: If I have graffiti on an unpainted block wall, how does the City remove the graffiti?

A: The City uses a degreaser type substance and high-pressured hot water to do the removal.

Q: How much will it cost me to use your service?

A: There is no fee assessed for this service, our goal is to keep Sturgis beautiful.

Q: How many times will the city remove graffiti from a single property?

A: You can report the same property as many times as it is vandalized.

Q: If I report something today, how long will it take for the City to respond?

A: We have a 48-hour turnaround time, which does not include weekends.

Q: Is it appropriate to call 911 to report graffiti?

A: Call 9-1-1 if you see someone in the act of applying graffiti. Otherwise you can contact the Sturgis Police Department at 659-7260 or Code enforcement at 659-7230 during business hours.

Q: Should I report all graffiti to the Sturgis Police Department?

A: If you would like to report a case of graffiti in your area or on your property, we urge you to do so as this will assist us in keeping track of the individuals who vandalize our community; however, it is not necessary for the removal.

Q: What if the site I'm reporting is vacant or abandoned and there is no access for the City to remove the graffiti?

A: We recommend that you call Code Enforcement or Central Dispatch to open a case; they will make every effort to contact the property owner to inform them of the violation.

Q: If there is graffiti on a new construction site, will the City remove the graffiti?

A: Until a certificate of occupancy is issued for the property, graffiti removal is the responsibility of the builder or contractor.

Q: Will the City remove graffiti from vehicles?

A: For the protection of the vehicle, we urge owners to coordinate with their insurance carrier to report and remove graffiti.